

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06

ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07 AGR-05 /085 W

----- 122527

R 122218Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3198

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMB GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ODUBER'S QUICK TRIP TO JAMAICA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRESIDENT ODUBER, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, LIMON DEPUTY DANIEL JACKSON, AND ENRIQUE MARTEN OF FERTICA, FLEW TO JAMAICA ON MARCH 9 FOR TALKS WITH JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND FOREIGN MINISTER THOMPSON. GROUP RETURNED LATER SAME DAY.

2. ODUBER ANNOUNCED BEFORE DEPARTING THAT THE CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA AND THE CARIBBEAN WOULD BE DISCUSSED; LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED THAT THE THEME HAD BEEN TOUCHED UPON. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS OTHER CHIEF TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WERE:

A. EXPANSION OF BILATERAL TRADE AND EXCHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY (WITH JAMAICA PROVIDING ALUMINUM TECHNOLOGY AND COSTA RICA OFFERING KNOW-HOW IN BANANA CULTIVATION).

B. POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR CARGO AND PASSENGER ROUTES, AND INCREASED TOURISM.

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C. STRENGTHENING OF NAVIERA MULTINACIONAL DE

CARIBE (NAMUCAR--THE MULTINATIONAL CARIBBEAN MERCHANT FLEET).

D. RESTRUCTURING OF THE OAS CHARTER.

E. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF COMMERCIAL DELEGATIONS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CLASSIFIED: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 10, FACIO CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS OF SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO KINGSTON. FACIO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO RE-ESTABLISH CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THEREBY TO ENHANCE THE GOCR'S ABILITY TO HAVE SOME CONTINUING PRO-DEMOCRATIC INFLUENCE ON JAMAICA. IN THIS REGARD, ODUBER AND FACIO WERE TOLD THAT WHILE JAMAICA ADMIRES SOME ELEMENTS OF CUBA'S SOCIAL REFORMS, THEY PREFER FOR THEMSELVES THE DEMOCRATIC PATTERN TOWARD DEVELOPMENT WITH A ROLE FOR FREE ENTERPRISE.

4. FACIO SAID THERE WERE FIVE SOLID HOURS OF FRUITFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH MANLEY AND THOMPSON. ACCORDING TO FACIO, THE JAMAICANS ARE EMOTIONALLY VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE CUBAN POSITION IN ANGOLA AND HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE EXTERNAL SUPPORT TO MOZAMBIQUE. IN THEIR VIEW THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO FIGHT RACISM IN AFRICA AND TO STOP THE SOUTH AFRICAN THREAT. FACIO SAID THAT HE AND ODUBER ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT THE OTHER SIDE OF CUBAN INTERVENTIONISM, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY CHANGED ANY VIEWS. WHEN ASKED HOW THEY WOULD VIEW ANY FUTURE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA, HOWEVER, THE JAMAICANS REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

5. ON BELIZE, JAMAICA INDICATED FULL SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM GUATEMALA. THE GOCR EXPLAINED ITS RESERVATIONS AND AS ON ANGOLA, THE TWO PARTIES AGREED TO DISAGREE.

6. FACIO CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF THE TRIP FOR COSTA RICA WAS TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO JAMAICA, PARTICULARLY OF MEAT, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES, AND RICE AND SUGAR. AN OBSTACLE WAS THE INABILITY OF THE GOCR TO IDENTIFY THINGS IT MIGHT IMPORT
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FROM JAMAICA. NEVERTHELESS, THE COSTA RICANS HOPE TO BE SO COMPETITIVE WITH THEIR EXPORTS THAT THEY CAN SELL ANYWAY. A JAMAICAN OFFICIAL WILL TRAVEL TO COSTA RICA WEEK OF MAVWH 15 TO TALK ABOUT MEAT AFTER RECEIVING ODUBER'S AND FACIO'S ASSURANCES THAT LOCAL MEAT IS FREE OF AFTOSA (FMD).

7. FACIO SAID THAT THEY HAD BRIEFED THE JAMAICANS ON SECRETARY

KISSINGER'S TRIP TO COSTA RICA, AND IN PARTICULAR DISABUSED THEM OF ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS SINGLING OUT BRAZIL AS THE LEADER IN LATIN AMERICA. WHEN FACIO STATED THAT HE HAD READ THE FULL TEXTS SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY OF ALL OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT ALL STOPS ON THE TRIP, DUDLEY THOMPSON REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED INTEREST AND FACIO PROMISED TO SEND HIM COPIES. FACIO ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO SEND HIM AN EXTRA SET OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN ENGLISH FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO DO SO, WHILE NOTING THAT EMBASSY KINGSTON WOULD NO DOUBT BE MAKING THEM AVAILABLE DIRECTLY.

8. JAMAICANS EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER COSTA RICAN FAILURE TO IDENTIFY WITH "NON-ALIGNED" COUNTRIES, AFTER ATTACKING THEM INSTEAD. HOWEVER, JAMAICANS DID NOT COUNTER COSTA RICAN ARGUMENTS THAT NON-ALIGNED" TOO OFTEN APPEARS TO BE AUTOMATICALLY ALIGNED AND UNWILLING TO TAKE UNPOPULAR POSITIONS EVEN WHEN REASON, FAIRNESS OR EVEN NATIONAL INTEREST POINT THAT WAY.

9. COSTA RICANS FELT VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL FOR OPENING DIALOGUE WHICH WILL CONTINUE IN FUTURE. THEY WERE ALSO PLEASED WITH POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO COSTA RICA.

10. ODUBER AND FACIO ARE THINKING OF MAKING SIMILAR TRIPS IN THE FUTURE TO TRINIDAD AND TO BARBADOS. END CLASSIFIED.
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